United Nations S/2014/474

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2014

Original: English

Identical letters dated 7 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

As I write the present letter, rockets are falling relentlessly on major Israeli cities including Be'er Sheva, Ashkelon, Ashdod and Beit Shemesh, while sirens are sounding in the areas around Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Hamas is indiscriminately targeting millions of innocent men, women, and children deep in the heart of Israel. With only seconds to run for cover, Israelis will spend the night sleeping in bomb shelters. Day camps and businesses in southern and central Israel have closed and the streets are deserted.

Within a single hour earlier today, Hamas and other terrorists fired over 65 rockets towards Israeli homes, schools and hospitals — that is, one rocket per minute. Over the weekend, Israel offered Hamas a ceasefire and was met with hundreds of rockets in exchange.

Israel will no longer tolerate this situation. Those who target Israelis with terrorism will pay a very heavy price. Hamas has taken responsibility for the barrage of rockets, and the Israeli Government will now fulfil its responsibility by defending its citizens. The Israeli Government will put a stop to these terrorist attacks; it is our duty as a responsible government to do so.

At this critical moment, the Security Council has an obligation to unequivocally condemn Hamas before it is too late. The very real danger of an even greater escalation hangs over the region. The Council must publicly denounce terrorism and call on President Abbas to dissolve the unity government before the situation further deteriorates.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-57020 (E) 080714

Please recycle